

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Buck 13 Timber Sale Environmental Assessment EA #OR-014-07-02

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA), has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and analyzed alternatives to conduct a variety of treatments within the Buck 13 Timber Sale analysis area on BLM lands. The EA considered six alternatives. Four alternatives were not analyzed in detail because they would not meet the objectives outlined in the Purpose and Need section of the EA (pages 4 and 5) and/or would not conform to management direction from the KFRA Resource Management Plan (RMP). The two alternatives analyzed in detail include the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative. Treatments included in the Proposed Action Alternative, described in detail in the EA, are summarized as follows:

Commercial Timber Harvest within the Matrix LUA – approximately 15 acres – Regeneration Harvest, ground based yarding operations, reserving 16 to 25 large green trees per acre, reforestation of openings with ponderosa pine and rust resistant western white pine (if available)

Fuel Reduction in the Matrix LUA – approximately 15 acres – whole tree/gross yarding, hand and/or machine piling of slash concentrations, lop and scatter of logging residue, burning or utilization of piles, and very low intensity underburning if fuel loads allow

Vegetation Treatments in Riparian Reserve LUA – approximately nine acres – Density Management (thinning) and culturing around large pines, ground based yarding operations

Fuel Reduction in Riparian Reserve LUA (outside of aspen treatment area) – approximately nine acres – whole tree/gross yarding, hand and machine slash piling of slash concentrations, lop and scatter of logging residue, burning or utilization of piles

Aspen Restoration in Riparian Reserve LUA – approximately five acres – removal of selected conifers up to 24 inches diameter at breast height (dbh), piling, lop and scatter and/or broadcast burning of conifer slash in aspen restoration portion of riparian reserves, deferring grazing for at least three years

Prescribed Fire – approximately five acres – medium intensity underburn and/or pile burning in the aspen restoration area would be used to stimulate aspen sprouting and reduce fuels

Road Construction – no new construction of permanent or temporary roads

Road Improvement – approximately .25 miles – road improvement (spot rocking)

Road Maintenance – approximately 1.2 miles – maintenance/renovation (grading, ditch cleaning, brushing and other general maintenance)

The Proposed Action and No Action alternatives were analyzed for significant effects as per the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27. The following criteria listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b) were considered and found to be not applicable to this

action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and precedents for future actions with significant effects.

The following unique characteristics (Critical Elements of the Human Environment), listed in 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3), are not present and will not be affected: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs); prime or unique farmlands, mining claims, paleontological resources, roadless areas, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wetlands, solid or hazardous waste, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

In regard to 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8), no adverse impacts are expected to cultural, scientific, or historical resources. The proposed area has been surveyed for cultural resources using BLM Class III survey methods. Surveys for cultural resources were conducted and known sites will be avoided. Within the Timber Sale area, there are no sites, structures or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

There will be no significant impacts to any special status species or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act [40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)]. Surveys of the proposed treatment area were conducted for Threatened and Endangered species and special status species. Refer to the EA on pages 19 through 50 of the EA for a discussion of survey protocols and results. Implementation of mitigations and project design features (Appendix B of the EA) as part of the proposed action will be sufficient to avoid significant impacts to potential habitat for special status species.

As per 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10), this action conforms with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

The action is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice. No potential impacts to low-income or minority populations have been identified internally by the BLM or externally through public notification and involvement. Consultation with local tribal governments has not identified any unique or special resources providing religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities. Employment would involve local contractors who engage in similar types of work throughout Klamath County and the state of Oregon.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider effects of this decision on National Energy Policy. There will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy. Within the project area there are no known energy resources with commercial potential and energy producing or processing facilities.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment, it is my determination that neither alternative analyzed constitutes a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the following:

- Final - Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan and EIS (FEIS), 1994
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary, 1995 (KFRA ROD/RMP)

- Klamath Falls Resource Area Integrated Weed Control Plan Environmental Assessment, July 21, 1993
- Aquatic Conservation Strategy Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision 2004 (ACS/ROD)
- 2007 Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

I have determined that this action will not have any significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and an environmental impact statement is not required. I have further determined that the proposed action conforms to management direction from the Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, as amended. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP or Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Signed: /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom
 Donald J. Holmstrom, Field Manager
 Klamath Falls Resource Area

Date: 8/27/08